

WHS Perfins and Postmarks - Another Angle

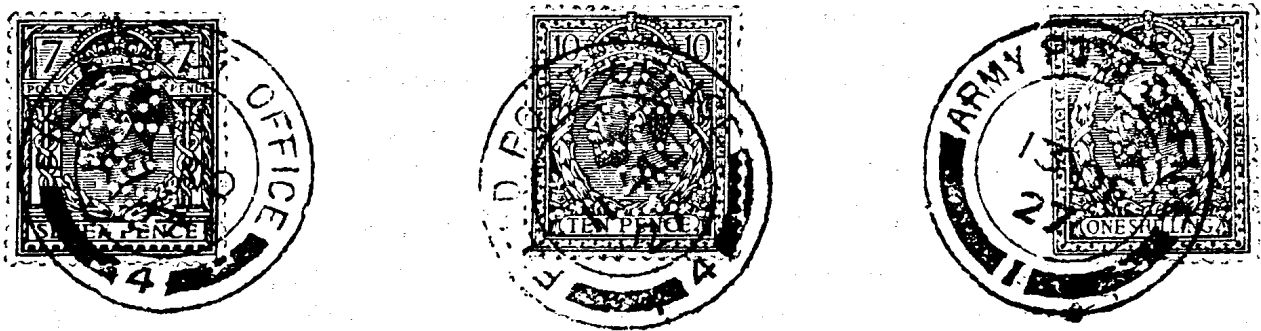
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The note by Tony Llewellyn-Edwards in Bulletin 301 reminded me of three King George V WHS perfins in my collection but the postmarks are of Shanghai! All are on small cut-outs: the perfin is Cat. No. W3800.03. The illustrations show:-

7d postmarked Field Post Office 4 dated 16 NO 27

10d postmarked Field Post Office 4 dated 11 AU 27

1/- postmarked Army Post Office 1 dated 13 DE 27



FPO 4 was at YANGTSEPOO, Shanghai, from 3-7-27 to 16-10-27

APO 1 was at KALEE Hotel, Shanghai, from 26-2-27 to 1940

The question is why were these perfins used in Shanghai? The three are all of different dates and that suggests a genuine non-philatelic usage.

Many British firms had branches in Shanghai between the Wars but I cannot trace any branch of W.H.Smith there. Could W.H.Smith have had a circulating library for overseas troops (able to use G.B. stamps in FPOs or APOs) with an arrangement whereby a return package with G.B. stamps accompanied the borrowed book?

My main philatelic interest is the postal history of the foreign post offices and foreign troops in China and I have never come across any other WHS perfins used in China.

Perhaps members would look at W H Smith perfins to see if the postmarks would be FPO 4 or APO 1, especially the higher values.